

FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

Post Office Box 1

Kyrenia, Cyprus

6 June 1960

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[redacted]  
Chief, FBIS  
2430 E Street N.W.  
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Roger: Subject: Mr. Campbell's Visit

Mr. Campbell, accompanied by Mrs. Campbell, arrived in Cyprus 30 May and departed the morning of 4 June. Mr. Campbell was for the first time the BBC representative at the regular semi annual coverage coordination meeting held in Cyprus. The two of them are also taking leave on the way back to England, where they are scheduled to arrive 9 June.

On 31 May Mr. Campbell and [redacted] and I had preliminary informal discussions of the points on the agenda, and then on 2 June had our formal meeting. Minutes of the meeting are attached. The following points should be noted: 25X1

1. BBC would like to resume coverage of Cairo in Arabic afternoon and evening casts. Although the Bureau would prefer to retain such coverage, it recognizes that because BBC reception of Middle East transmissions is limited, increased Arabic coverage can in general be increased only by permitting BBC to cover Cairo.

2. In explaining his position concerning BBC coverage of TASS Cyrillic, Mr. Campbell told us what he had previously told the Chief, London Bureau. We were unsuccessful in our attempts to convince him that BBC could not afford not to cover it.

3. The early acquisition of two Persian monitors was a pleasant surprise. By the end of the summer the joint capability of the two services should be greatly increased.

4. Proper slugging of copy is a problem both for BBC and for all FBIS bureaus. BBC feels that "text" and "excerpts" are so restrictive that monitors are forced to slug items "summary" when they are very close to being textual. Mr. Campbell indicated that he may ask in one of his meetings with you that the subject be restudied. In the meantime we will, of course, follow present instructions and will attempt to avoid marking an item "summary" when it can be marked "text" or "excerpts" by minor additions.

I discussed Cable and Wireless communications with Mr. Campbell, particularly in connection with the proposed procedure of having a patch in FBIS Caversham to connect C & W London directly with FBIS Washington. Mr. Campbell was worried that the Bureau might tailor its file for Headquarters during patch-through periods to the detriment of BBC. I assured him that this would not be the case. At times we have been uncertain here whether BBC arrangements with

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C & W provided for full manning of the Kyrenia-London circuit 24 hours a day. He said that they did and that we should not hesitate to send traffic at any time. The only real limitation is the amount of wordage, which should not reach such a volume that another circuit would be required.

On 1 June I took Mr. Campbell to Nicosia where he alone visited the Acting Administrative Secretary and the present Public Relations Officer Chudleigh, who after independence will hold the same position with the British Mission. Together Mr. Campbell and I visited Mr. Skottowe, C & W manager. He said that he thought the Republic would eventually, but not at once, take over C & W. He pointed out, however, that Cypriot C & W personnel were well trained and should be able to provide satisfactory service. We also talked with Mr. Porter, who will be deputy principal officer in the High Commissioner's office.

Elsie and I gave a cocktail party and a Hilarion picnic to which were invited Kyrenia and Nicosia residents as well as some Station personnel. I asked Mr. Campbell not to play up the close connection between BBC and FBIS at this time. This can be done later if it would lead to closer relations with the Cyprus Republic.

All in all the visit was a useful one and I think that the Campbells were pleased both from a professional and personal point of view.

Sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

Mediterranean Bureau

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Attachment: